KARRA SOCIETY FOR RURAL ACTION

ANNUAL REPORT

2025–26

Towards Total Development...





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KARRA SOCIETY FOR RURAL ACTION KSRA RANCHI

1. Message from the President

Dear Friends, Partners and Supporters,



It is with deep gratitude and renewed resolve that I present this Annual Report for 2025–26 on behalf of Karra Society for Rural Action. KSRA believes that sustainable development cannot be delivered from the outside; it must be built from within communities.

During the year, we deepened our commitment to strengthening local democracy, protecting children from trafficking and early marriage, reviving indigenous wisdom on food and nutrition, expanding access to clean energy, and ensuring that young children receive care and nourishment. Across our programs, community institutions, women's groups, caregivers and local cadres continued to identify needs, mobilize families and connect people with services and entitlements.

I express my sincere gratitude to our community leaders, women's groups, frontline workers, government partners, donors, board members, and dedicated staff. Their partnership makes this work possible. As we move forward, KSRA will continue to deepen program quality, strengthen evidence and learning, and support communities to shape their own development priorities.

Warm regards,
SM Shafin Ali
President, Karra Society for Rural Action

2. About KSRA

Karra Society for Rural Action (KSRA) is a Jharkhand-based civil society organization established in 1985. KSRA works with tribal and other vulnerable communities to strengthen self-reliance, community institutions, access to rights and entitlements, child protection, health and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and natural resource management.

Vision

To build strong communities that can lead their own development and move towards a self-reliant and sustainable society.

Mission

To support self-sustaining and self-reliant communities, particularly tribal and vulnerable communities, through programs focused on local democracy, health and nutrition, livelihoods, agriculture, agroforestry, skill development, child protection, youth collectives, rights and entitlements, and forest protection.

Our approach

- **Community-led development:** strengthening Gram Sabhas, women's collectives, youth groups, and village-level committees.
- **Rights and entitlements:** helping eligible households understand and access public schemes and services.
- **Indigenous knowledge**: valuing traditional food systems, seeds, cultural practices, and ecological knowledge.
- **Integrated development:** linking nutrition, care, livelihoods, agriculture, and natural resource management.
- **Partnership and convergence:** working with community institutions, government departments, and development partners.

OBJECTIVES— AND GOALS

KSRA'S PROGRAMS FOR 2025–2026 WERE GUIDED BY SEVEN CORE OBJECTIVES, EACH CONTRIBUTING TO THE ORGANISATION'S LARGER VISION OF AN INTEGRATED MODEL FOR PROSPEROUS VILLAGES:

- Strengthen women-led collective governance across all working districts, deepening participation in gram sabhas, GPDP planning, and social audits.
- Restore and rejuvenate natural resources and livelihood assets through integrated Natural Resource Management, climate-resilient practices, and regenerative agriculture.
- Enhance inclusive livelihoods for rural households through diversification and integration across farm, off-farm, and non-farm sectors.
- Advance women's economic empowerment and the inclusion of extremely vulnerable households in economic participation.
- Improve nutrition security and health outcomes at the household level through nutrition-sensitive livelihoods and dietary diversity.
- Deepen partnership and convergence with government schemes, line departments, and community institutions.
- Protect women and child rights and work towards eliminating child marriage, trafficking, and abuse across program geographies.
- Capacity building of government and non-government institutions.

From women as implementers to women as decision-makers

KSRA envisions a rural transformation that advances economic prosperity, gender equality, nutritional security, women's and children's rights, and ecological restoration as a single, mutually reinforcing agenda. At the heart of this model is a deliberate shift in the role women play within their own communities — from implementers of programs designed by others to decision-makers who plan, govern, and direct the resources that shape their villages.

Our Contribution to Viksit Bharat 2047

KSRA's community-based interventions interventions are closely aligned with India's vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047. By strengthening women's leadership in local governance, restoring degraded natural resources, promoting regenerative and organic agriculture, and advancing child rights and protection, KSRA contributes to the collective effort to build an inclusive, sustainable, and developed India by 2047.

Geography

KSRA works across four districts of Jharkhand, covering some of the state's most remote and underserved villages:

- Khunti district: 25 villages
- Ranchi district: 30 villages
- West Singhbhum: 500 villages
- Simdega district: 3 villages



3. Program Portfolio and Geographic Presence

During FY 2025–26, KSRA's work included local democracy and welfare in Lapung block; rural creche services in Lapung; nutrition and indigenous food systems in Khunti district; child protection and child rights in West Singhbhum; and climate-resilient agriculture and natural resource management. Following is the detail.

Program area	Key geography	Partner / support
Local democracy, rights and entitlements	Lapung block, Ranchi district; 24 villages across Mahugaon, Dari and Devgaon Panchayats	Azim Premji Foundation; collaboration with Badlao Foundation
Rural Creche Initiative	Lapung block, 30 selected villages, Jharkhand	Azim Premji Foundation
Indigenous food systems, nutrition and livelihoods	Khunti district; intervention villages across Chhata, Dumargadi and Bamarja Panchayats	Paul Haymlin Foundation-UK
Child protection and child rights	West Singhbhum district	Kailash Satyarthi Foundation
Climate resilience, Gender sensitization and Organization Development	Lapung and Karra areas	Rebuild India/ Dasra
Climate resilience and natural resource management and Organization Development	Karra (Khunti)	EdelGive Foundation/ Grow+
Solar Energy	Simdega and Khunti	EMP Bindi International

4. Year at a Glance

During the year, KSRA advanced a connected portfolio of work on local democracy and welfare access, early childhood care, indigenous food systems and nutrition, child protection, and climate-resilient agriculture. The following program chapters present each initiative's key achievements.

Selected indicator	FY 2025–26 reported highlight
Rural creches operational	30 centres by March 2026
Children enrolled in creches during Oct 2025–Mar 2026	277 new enrolments; 794 cumulative enrolments reported by March 2026
Average daily creche attendance	10 children per centre (period average reported)
Nutrition gardens	106 gardens across 15 villages
Community seed banks	Maintained in 11 villages
Children's protection	330 child marriages reported prevented; 26 children rescued from trafficking
Child protection committees	24 village-level committees formed
Gram Sabhas functioning	17 of 24 described as vibrant and functional
Welfare entitlement access	3,175 households supported out of 4,309 reported households
Solar energy	Solar energy reached 200 household in Simdega

5. Program Highlights

5.1 Local Democracy, Rights and Entitlements

Strengthening Gram Sabha to Ensure Access to and Delivery of Rights and Entitlements

Supported by: Azim Premji Foundation | Geography: Mahugaon, Dari and Devgaon Gram Panchayats, Lapung block, Ranchi district

KSRA's local democracy program focuses on strengthening existing constitutional and traditional community institutions rather than creating parallel structures. During the reporting period, the program supported community awareness, staff and cadre capacity-building, Mahila Sabha participation, Gram Sabha standing committees, traditional knowledge-sharing meetings, Adivasi Samuhs, and coordination with Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members and government functionaries.

Key strategies

- Strengthening regular Gram Sabha meetings and supporting community members to understand their roles in local decision-making.
- Promoting women's participation through Mahila Sabhas and encouraging more inclusive discussions of village priorities.
- Building staff and village cadre capacity on rights, welfare schemes, community mobilization, and participatory governance.
- Facilitating coordination meetings with PRI members, Block Administration and MGNREGA functionaries to address service-delivery barriers.
- Promoting indigenous culture and ecological knowledge through traditional knowledge meetings and an Adivasi Traditional Mela.
- Building awareness and staff understanding of the Forest Rights Act, including documentation and GPS mapping concepts.

Achievements

KSRA supported 3,175 of 4,309 households in accessing key welfare entitlements, strengthening their ability to claim essential public services and social protection benefits. The initiative contributed to strengthening local self-governance, with 17 of 24 Gram Sabhas functioning as vibrant community institutions, supported by regular meetings, standing committees and improved grievance redressal processes. KSRA also facilitated the submission of 3 Community Forest Resource (CFR) claims and 14 Individual Forest Rights (IFR) claims, while assisting households with PDS e-KYC, ration card applications, inclusion of eligible family members in ration cards, and pension applications and follow-up.

Through community awareness initiatives, KSRA promoted greater understanding of key government schemes, including MGNREGA, the Public Distribution System (PDS), pensions, housing schemes and forest rights. Traditional knowledge-sharing meetings created spaces for intergenerational exchange, enabling older community members and young people to share indigenous wisdom and local practices. The Adivasi Traditional Mela further celebrated indigenous food systems, traditional seeds, farming practices, cultural heritage and ecological knowledge, reinforcing the importance of preserving community knowledge while strengthening local participation in development and governance.

i. **Mass awareness on Gram sabha, welfare schemes** A sustained community awareness campaign was undertaken across all project villages to strengthen people's understanding of the Gram Sabha as the foundation of local self-governance and to improve awareness of various government welfare schemes and citizens' rights. The campaign employed culturally appropriate and participatory communication methods, including wall paintings, nukkad nataks (street plays), village meetings, and community interactions, making information accessible even to those with limited literacy.



ii. **MELA on adivasi tradition, custom, wisdom, foods etc.** The Adivasi Traditional Mela, organized at the Panchayat level in Devgaon, emerged as a vibrant platform to celebrate and revive the rich cultural heritage, traditional governance systems, indigenous food practices, and ecological wisdom of tribal communities. The event showcased traditional foods prepared and served using indigenous methods, highlighting the nutritional and health benefits of local grains, millets, forest foods, and native crop varieties that are gradually disappearing. Traditional dances, folk arts, and cultural performances reflected the community's rich heritage and encouraged younger generations to reconnect with their cultural roots.

The mela also promoted knowledge sharing on indigenous farming practices, local seed conservation, nutrition, and climate-resilient livelihoods, reinforcing the role of Gram Sabhas in preserving traditional knowledge and sustainable development. The event witnessed active participation from Gram Sabha members, traditional leaders, women, youth, PRI representatives, and government officials, making it a unique platform that strengthened cultural identity, community ownership, and local democracy.

This intervention demonstrated that preserving indigenous culture and knowledge is integral to strengthening community institutions, promoting nutrition security, and building resilient, self-reliant Gram Sabhas.



iii. **Quarterly coordination meetings:** Quarterly coordination meetings were conducted with PRI members, Block Administration officials, and MGNREGA functionaries to strengthen convergence, improve coordination, and enhance the effective delivery of government schemes and services at the village level.

These meetings served as a platform for regular dialogue among Gram Sabha representatives, PRI members, and government stakeholders. Discussions focused on reviewing the implementation status of various government schemes, addressing challenges faced by community members in accessing their entitlements, and identifying appropriate solutions through coordinated action.

The meetings also played an important role in strengthening the relationship between Gram Sabhas and PRI institutions by promoting transparency, improving communication, and building mutual trust. They helped bridge information gaps, address misinformation, and provided Gram Sabha members with an opportunity to raise issues and concerns that could be resolved at the Panchayat level. This collaborative approach has contributed to better coordination among stakeholders and has supported more responsive and accountable local governance.



iv. **Exposure visit of Gram Sabha leaders:** The PRI members and the Gram Sabha leaders were taken on exposure visit to Ara village in Ormanjhi block. The leader of the Gram sabha of Ara village gave a brief introduction about the process that became the foundation of the present Gram Sabha. The gram sabha members of Ara village have nine-point rule that have been decided upon and implemented by the gram sabha, on the village. The traditional village leaders, PRI members were given visits of the various activities done by the Ara Garm Sabha, like plantation, trench cum bunding, community-based school management. The objective of the exposure visit is to encourage the traditional village leaders and the PRI members, traditional leaders and cadres to learn community led intervention and try to implement such initiatives in their villages for the overall development, the Ara gram sabha has made for themselves.



Emerging contribution

Gram Sabha, contributing to better alignment between customary and statutory governance systems.

As a result, over 70% of Gram Sabhas are now actively functioning, with increased community participation and proactive engagement in addressing local issues. Gram Sabhas are increasingly taking initiative in resolving individual and community-level grievances, reflecting strengthened local governance and ownership. These efforts have enabled communities to secure Jal Nal Yojna, Plantation, Tube wells, road works, Anganwadi improvements, and repair of public assets.

Under PDS, 3102 households have been supported in completing e-KYC processes, ensuring continuity of their food entitlements. Additionally, 457 households have been facilitated with new ration cards and 210 inclusions of names in existing cards, expanding coverage among vulnerable families.

The program has also strengthened service delivery by resolving 139 household-level grievances, including issues related to name corrections, irregular or pending ration distribution, and errors in bank or Aadhaar linkage—thereby improving last-mile access and accountability within the PDS system.

5.2 Rural Creche Initiative – Lapung Shishu Ghar Ek Pahal

Supported by: Azim Premji Foundation | Geography: Lapung block, Jharkhand

The Rural Creche Initiative provides young children with a safe, nurturing environment and structured daily care while supporting working families. During FY 2025–26, the program expanded from 20 centres to 30 operational creches, reaching its scale-up target by December 2025. Gram Sabhas contributed to identifying spaces, selecting caregivers and building community ownership.

Care, nutrition and early learning

Across the 30 centres, caregivers worked to provide three meals per day, six days a week, using locally available foods. Daily routines included age-appropriate play and stimulation, handwashing, cleanliness and other basic hygiene practices. Centres generally operated for 24-26 days per month, with an average of 23 days open across the reporting period.

Monitoring and quality improvement

The program used the Shishu Ghar app to track attendance and monthly anthropometric measurements. By March 2026, measurements were recorded for 434 of 492 eligible children. Children identified with severe or moderate acute malnutrition and growth faltering were tracked for follow-up and referral. Monthly caregiver reviews, refresher trainings, field mentoring and coordination with Anganwadi Workers, Sahiyas and PRI representatives supported service quality.

Selected results

Indicator	Reported result
Operational creches by March 2026	30
Cumulative enrolments reported by March 2026	794
Active children in March 2026	486
Average daily attendance across reporting period	10 per centre
Children with measurements recorded in March 2026	434 of 492 eligible children

Story of change: Shivani’s growth journey

A Journey of Resilience: Shivani's Path to Health

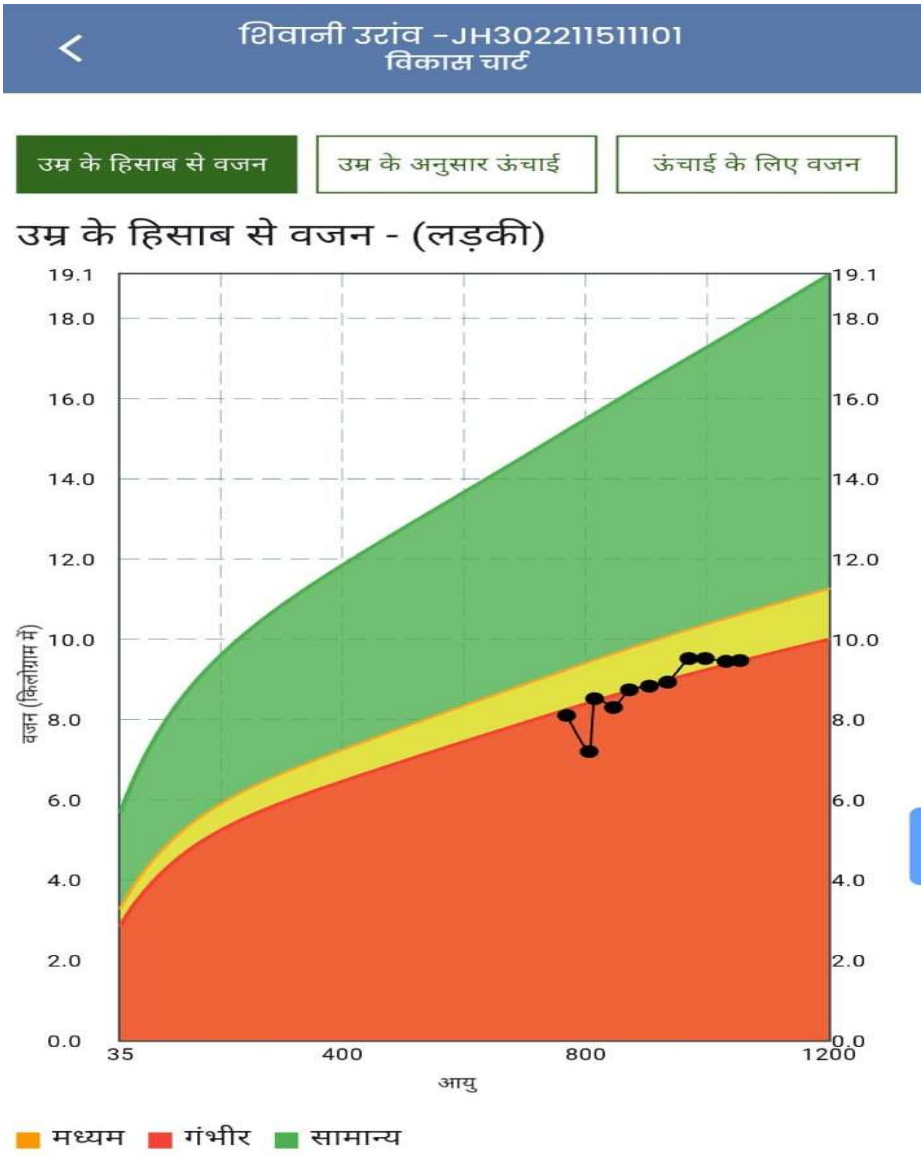
In the quiet village of Madi, a young girl named Shivani Oraon began a transformative chapter of her life. On June 12, 2025, at just 24 months old, Shivani was officially enrolled in the Creche program.

The Challenges at the Start

At the time of her enrollment, the numbers told a difficult story. Shivani weighed only 8 kgs and stood at 75.5 cm. She was battling both stunting and wasting — conditions that left her fragile and vulnerable. Her early childhood was marked by frequent illness, requiring regular hospital visits that exhausted both her strength and her family's spirit.

Seven Months of Uncertainty

For the next seven months, Shivani's progress followed a 'zig-zag' pattern. Her growth chart showed small peaks and valleys, but her weight remained largely stagnant. Despite the efforts of her caregivers and the medical support she received, it felt as though she was caught in a cycle of getting sick and slowly recovering, only to face the same hurdle again.



The Turning Point

However, perseverance began to pay off as the new year arrived. In January 2026, the zig-zag lines on her chart finally began to stabilize and trend upward. The 'little changes' of the past months transformed into visible growth. Shivani started showing more energy, her weight began to climb steadily, and the frequent hospital visits started to become a memory of the past after coming to Shishu Ghar — as her mother now recalls.

Now at 33 months, Shivani weighs 9.47 kgs — slow and steady growth, but a visible change. She stands as a testament to the power of consistent nutritional intervention and dedicated care, proving that even the most difficult start can lead to a brighter, healthier future.

A Village United: Protecting the Future of Madi's Children



In the quiet village of Madi, a community came together with a shared belief — that every child deserves a healthy start in life. This is the story of how that belief changed the life of one little girl, and what it means for the children of Madi.

The Child Behind the Numbers

When two-year-old Shivani Oraon was enrolled in the Creche program on June 12, 2025, she was fragile and vulnerable. At just 24 months, she weighed only 8 kg and measured 75.5 cm — signs of both stunting and wasting. Her young life had already been marked by frequent illness and repeated hospital visits, wearing down not only her small body but the spirit of her entire family.

Without intervention, Shivani's story could have followed a path that far too many children in underserved communities know well.

The Community's Response

Thanks to the support of dedicated caregivers and the Shishu Ghar program — made possible by the generosity of donors like you — Shivani was not left to face these challenges alone. She was welcomed into a structured environment of consistent nutritional care, health monitoring, and nurturing support.

The first seven months were not without struggle. Shivani's growth chart showed a zigzag pattern — small gains followed by setbacks, a cycle of illness and slow recovery. But the community around her did not waver.

A Turning Point

As the new year arrived, something began to shift. In January 2026, the lines on Shivani's growth chart steadily turned upward. The small, incremental changes that caregivers had worked so hard to achieve began to compound into visible progress.

"The frequent hospital visits started to become a memory of the past after coming to Shishu Ghar," her mother shared.

Shivani's energy returned. Her weight climbed. Her smile grew stronger.

Where She Stands Today



Today, at 33 months old, Shivani weighs 9.47 kg — a slow and steady gain that represents far more than numbers on a chart. It represents a community that chose not to look away, caregivers who showed up every single day, and donors who made it all possible.

Shivani's journey is proof that when a village unites around its children, the future changes.

Support from APF is building that future — one child at a time.

Keeping Our Community Safe: A Partnership for Protection

At the heart of every thriving community is a commitment to the safety and wellbeing of its most vulnerable members. On 10th April 2026, that commitment was put into action.

A Partnership Rooted in Purpose

Karra Society for Rural Action (KSRA) joined hands with the Jharkhand Fire Department to bring professional fire safety training to the frontline workers who care for children and families every day. Held at Samarpandeep Training Centre in Ratu, Ranchi, the Fire Safety Mock Drill was more than a training exercise — it was a demonstration of what becomes possible when institutions work together for the common good.

The People at the Centre

Forty-five participants gathered for the session — caregivers, core team members, and APF team members, all united by their dedication to the communities they serve. These are the people who are present in moments of crisis, and it is precisely they who must be equipped to respond.



Their enthusiasm throughout the day reflected something important: when people are trusted with knowledge and skills, they rise to meet the responsibility.

Learning That Could Save Lives

With guidance from technical resource persons of the Fire Department, participants received both practical and theoretical training covering electrical fire safety, safe use of LPG cylinders, first-response techniques for containing fire, and basic first aid measures.



The highlight of the day was a live demonstration and mock drill, which transformed abstract safety protocols into real, practiced skills. Participants left not just with information, but with the confidence to act in an emergency.

What This Means for the Mission

The children and families served by KSRA's programs are safer today because of this training. The caregivers who protect them are better prepared. And the community around them is stronger for it.

This collaboration is a testament to what your support enables — not just direct care, but the systems and people that sustain it.

Challenges and priorities

The program faced inconsistent LPG supply, seasonal migration and festival-related attendance dips, gaps in measurement when children were absent, and pressure on staff capacity during rapid expansion. Responses included home visits, follow-up measurement, backup cooking arrangements where feasible, refresher training and redistribution of staff responsibilities. Priorities include consolidating quality across all centres, improving growth-monitoring coverage, strengthening SAM/MAM referral follow-up, and deepening government convergence.

5.3 Indigenous Food Systems, Nutrition and Livelihoods

Project: Improving Nutrition Status through Indigenous Food Habits, Wisdoms and Cultures in Khunti District, Jharkhand-2

Supported by: Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF), UK

KSRA's nutrition initiative connects indigenous food practices, agriculture, household livelihoods and community knowledge. During the reporting period, the program began engagement in three additional villages—Galiondar, Kasira and Gunguniya—and continued capacity-building of the project team on community-centred methods, gender sensitization, tribal culture, nutrition, household surveys and focus group discussions.

Nutrition gardens and traditional seeds

KSRA promoted household nutrition and the conservation of indigenous seed diversity through the establishment of 106 nutrition gardens across 15 villages in three Panchayats. These gardens encouraged families to cultivate seasonal vegetables, leafy greens and locally suitable crops for household consumption, supporting dietary diversity and greater reliance on locally produced foods.

Alongside this, KSRA supported the maintenance of community seed banks in 11 villages, conserving traditional crop varieties such as paddy, urad, arhar, kurthi, finger millet and gondali. These efforts strengthened community-based seed conservation, helped preserve indigenous agricultural knowledge and laid the foundation for more diverse, locally adapted and sustainable food systems. By linking household nutrition with traditional seeds and farming practices, KSRA sought to reinforce the relationship between agricultural biodiversity, food security and community resilience.



Linking nutrition and livelihoods

Training for Pashu Sathis, village cadres and families—including families with persons with disabilities—covered backyard poultry management, local breeds, feeding, housing, vaccination and deworming. The intervention links poultry rearing with household access to eggs and meat, dietary diversity and potential supplementary income. The team's exposure visit to Prarth Mahila Samiti in Chhindwara provided learning on integrated farming, nutrition gardens, organic methods, maternal and child health practices, and community communication.

COMMUNITY NUTRITION FEAST (Poshan Bhoj)

Every month, villages organise a Poshan Bhoj — a community meal where women cook new dishes using indigenous, locally-available ingredients. It serves as both a practical nutrition demonstration and a cultural celebration, helping communities reconnect with food traditions. One farmer from Karra was awarded by the Chief Minister of Jharkhand for promoting traditional food practices.



BACKYARD POULTRY FARMING

Training on backyard poultry was conducted in Sauda Village (Chhata Panchayat) with 25 Pashu Sathis, village cadres, and families with persons with disabilities. The training covered vaccination schedules, deworming, poultry shed management, and feeding practices — linking nutrition (eggs as protein source) with livelihood for vulnerable households.

EXPOSURE VISIT — PRARTH MAHILA SAMITI, CHHINDWARA

The project team visited Prarth Mahila Samiti in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, to learn from integrated farming, nutrition awareness, maternal health practices, and women's leadership initiatives. Key learnings included use of dome structures for vegetable cultivation, organic farming methods, and culturally-relevant IEC through local songs

A community-led story of change

In Diuri village of Bamarja Panchayat, the life of Karamchand was once overshadowed by alcohol addiction. His excessive drinking had become a daily struggle for his family, leading to frequent conflicts and emotional distress at home. Over time, the situation became so difficult that his wife and children were forced to leave the house to escape the constant turmoil. The family carried deep pain—facing humiliation in the community and witnessing their children's education come to a halt.

During this time, the project's community mobilizers began engaging with the family and the community. While interacting with them, the family members were overwhelmed with emotion as they shared the hardships they had endured due to Karamchand's behaviour. The mobilizers also tried to speak with Karamchand about the consequences of his drinking and its impact on his family and community. However, change did not come easily. In the beginning, he resisted their efforts and often created difficulties during their field visits. At one point, he even hid the polymer wires that had been brought for establishing a nutrition garden in the village. Fortunately, his family later returned the wires, showing their continued faith in the community initiative.

Despite these challenges, the community mobilizers did not give up. Through repeated conversations, patience, and consistent encouragement, they continued to support Karamchand and remind him that a different life was possible.

Gradually, their persistence began to make an impact. By the end of 2025, Karamchand made a courageous and life-changing decision—he completely quit drinking. This turning point brought remarkable changes in his life. His family returned home, peace was restored in the household, and his children were able to resume their education.

Today, Karamchand openly acknowledges the mistakes of his past and expresses heartfelt gratitude to those who supported him through his journey of change. His transformation has become a powerful example in the village. Many families who once felt trapped by similar struggles now look at his story with hope—realizing that change is possible when the community comes together with patience, understanding, and support.

Selected reported outputs

Indicator	Result
Nutrition gardens established	106
Villages contributing to seed banks	11
Farmers cultivating traditional pulses (grams/peas/kurthi)	54
Pashu Sathis, village cadres and families trained on backyard poultry	25
Pashu Sathis identified in selected villages	18
Families reported consuming coarse grains	970
BMI assessments conducted	309
VHSND sessions attended by community mobilizers	27
Children linked with MTC	3

Challenges and learning

Free-grazing livestock sometimes damaged household nutrition gardens, while daytime household surveys were affected by field work, migration and wage labour. The project responded by promoting low-cost fencing using locally available materials and revisiting households during early morning or evening hours. The next phase can build on these lessons by strengthening garden protection, documenting dietary changes, and following up on the sustainability of seed banks and poultry practices.


एक दिवसीय मुर्गी पालन एवं
पोषण वाटिका प्रशिक्षण








पोषण आधारित सामुदायिक प्रबंधन के लिए
KSRA कार्यकर्ताओं का एक्सपोज़र/प्रशिक्षण
भ्रमण


धान
Kurthi
मड़ुवा
उरद
गोण्डली
Kondli

5.4 Child Protection and Child Rights – West Singhbhum

Supported by : Kailash Satyarthi's Children Fund, US

KSRA's child protection work in West Singhbhum focused on preventing child marriage, responding to child trafficking, strengthening village-level protection mechanisms, connecting families with government schemes, and improving access to justice through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Reported achievements

Indicator	Reported result
Child marriages reported prevented	800
Children rescued from trafficking	83
Village-level child protection committees formed	33
People reported to have taken pledges against child marriage	933
Families linked with government schemes	4,358
Survivors compensated	9
Religious leaders engaged	14
Children trained in Sohrai art at the Observation Home	50

KSRA's child protection program in West Singhbhum focused on addressing child marriage and child trafficking through a community-centred approach that brought together village institutions, families, government systems, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), religious leaders and the justice system. Rather than treating child protection as an isolated intervention, the program worked to build a collective response in which communities could recognise risks, raise concerns, support vulnerable children and engage with relevant institutions for protection and justice.



Strengthening community vigilance and prevention: During the reporting period, 330 child marriages were reported as prevented, and 26 children—20 girls and 6 boys—were rescued from trafficking. These reported achievements reflect the importance of sustained community awareness, local vigilance and coordinated action in responding to risks faced by children. The formation of 24 village-level child protection committees created an important foundation for strengthening community participation in identifying vulnerabilities, raising concerns and promoting collective responsibility for children's safety. The reported participation of 7,801

people in pledges against child marriage further demonstrated the program's emphasis on building broader social awareness and encouraging communities to reject harmful practices

Strengthening convergence with government and PRIs: The program recognised that sustainable child protection requires more than awareness generation; it also depends on accessible public services, responsive local institutions and coordinated follow-up. By linking 1,221 families with government schemes, KSRA addressed household-level vulnerabilities while helping families connect with available social protection mechanisms. The village-level committees and community engagement processes provided a foundation for closer coordination between communities, PRIs and relevant government institutions. This approach is important for enabling local institutions to recognise emerging protection concerns, facilitate referrals and connect vulnerable families with appropriate services. The program's broader contribution lies in reinforcing the role of local governance structures in making child protection a shared community and institutional responsibility.



Improving access to justice and institutional support: KSRA worked to strengthen institutional support for child protection by engaging with the legal system and promoting access to justice for vulnerable children. The collaboration between the Bar and Bench, including the Bar Association's waiver of fees for juvenile cases, helped address potential financial barriers to legal assistance. This engagement highlighted the importance of cooperation between civil society and legal institutions in supporting children who require legal protection and assistance. KSRA also facilitated Sohrai art training for approximately 50 children at the Observation Home, creating opportunities for cultural expression, creative engagement and connection with indigenous artistic traditions among children in institutional care.



दैनिक भास्कर

2025-10-17
चाईबासा भास्कर (2)

॥ समाज-संस्था ब्रीफ ॥

बाल संप्रेषण गृह के किशोरों के लिए सोहराय पेंटिंग व हथकरघा प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम प्रारंभ

चाईबासा। जिला प्रशासन के तत्वाधान में गुरुवार को संप्रेषण गृह चाईबासा के किशोरों के लिए सोहराय पेंटिंग, हस्तकला, हथकरघा प्रशिक्षण की शुरुआत की गई। यह प्रशिक्षण 3 से 6 महीना अवधि तक का चलेगा। प्रशिक्षण कारा समिति, पश्चिम सिंहभूम चाईबासा के सहयोग से कराया जा रहा है। प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम की कार्यशाला में अधीक्षक संप्रेषण गृह-सह-सहायक निदेशक, सामाजिक सुरक्षा के खुशेन्द्र सोनकेसरी, जिला बाल संरक्षण पदाधिकारी पुनीता तिवारी, कारा सोसाइटी, चाईबासा के प्रतिनिधि प्रिया तिवारी, प्रशिक्षक हेलो मनी तिग्गा, अनीता तिग्गा एवं परिवीक्षा पदाधिकारी, रूपा ठाकुर, गुहपति रवि महतो, शिक्षक विश्वनाथ एवं अन्य कर्मी उपस्थित रहे।



Overall contribution and way forward

The program's key contribution was to strengthen the foundations of a community-led and institutionally supported child protection system in West Singhbhum. The reported prevention of child marriages, rescue of children from trafficking, formation of village-level committees and linkage of families with government schemes demonstrate action across prevention, community mobilisation and social protection. Engagement with religious leaders and the legal fraternity further broadened the network of stakeholders involved in protecting children.

Going forward, KSRA can build on these foundations by strengthening the regular functioning of village-level child protection committees, clarifying coordination and referral pathways with PRIs and government departments, supporting timely follow-up for vulnerable children and families, and documenting the outcomes of institutional collaboration. Continued engagement with Kailash Satyarthi's Children's Foundation and other relevant stakeholders can help consolidate these mechanisms and strengthen the sustainability of child protection efforts. Ultimately, the program reinforces a central principle: protecting children requires not only preventing individual incidents of harm, but also building communities and institutions that can recognise risks, respond collectively and uphold every child's right to safety, dignity and a childhood free from exploitation.



5.5 Climate Resilience, Natural Farming and Natural Resource Management

Supported by : Rebuild India (Dasra)

KSRA promotes an integrated approach to rural development that connects community participation, local governance, climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable natural resource management. Through its engagement with communities and government institutions, KSRA works to ensure that local development priorities, indigenous knowledge and locally available resources inform planning and implementation processes.

Strengthening Participatory Planning under the Adi Karm Yogi Initiative

With support from Dasra, KSRA extended facilitation support to the Karra Block Administration for the planning process under the Adi Karm Yogi initiative, a Government of India program focused on tribal development. Over a period of two months, 19 volunteers were engaged at 19 Panchayats to facilitate participatory in village-level planning exercises and support the preparation of development plans.

The process included Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), social mapping, natural resource mapping, vision mapping, identification of community needs and local development priorities, and preparation and compilation of planning documents. These exercises helped organise village-level information and bring community perspectives into the Panchayat planning process. The initiative reflected KSRA's commitment to strengthening local governance by connecting community priorities with institutional planning mechanisms.

Key outputs: 19 volunteers engaged for two months; facilitation of participatory planning exercises; social and natural resource mapping; identification of community needs and development priorities; and support for preparing Panchayat-level planning documents.



Promoting Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Natural Resource Management

KSRA's climate-resilience approach combines soil and water conservation, natural farming, indigenous seed conservation and diversified agricultural practices to strengthen the sustainability of rural livelihoods. These interventions seek to reduce vulnerability to irregular rainfall, protect productive natural resources and encourage farming systems that rely more effectively on locally available resources.



Trench-cum-Bund (TCB) for Soil and Water Conservation

KSRA promoted soil and water conservation through the creation of trench-cum-bund (TCB) structures across 5 acres of land in Lapung and Karra. These structures are designed to slow surface runoff, minimise soil erosion and improve rainwater retention and soil moisture. By conserving soil and water, the intervention aims to strengthen the resilience of agricultural land during dry spells and periods of irregular rainfall. The longer-term contribution of TCB structures to soil moisture, erosion control and agricultural productivity will be assessed through field observations and feedback from farmers.



Advancing Natural Farming Practices

KSRA supported 130 farmers in adopting natural farming practices, encouraging a shift towards locally appropriate and ecologically sustainable agriculture. These practices promote the use of locally available resources, reduce dependence on purchased chemical inputs and encourage cultivation methods that support soil health and long-term agricultural sustainability.

Integrated with indigenous seed conservation, mixed cropping, nutrition gardens and soil and water conservation measures, natural farming contributes to diversified farming systems and strengthens the foundation for climate-resilient rural livelihoods. Going forward, KSRA will continue to encourage farmers to adopt and sustain these practices, while monitoring changes in input costs, crop yields and cultivation methods to better understand their benefits for participating farming households.



Building Resilient Communities through Integrated Action

Together, these initiatives demonstrate KSRA's approach to linking participatory governance with climate-resilient development. Support to the Karra Block Administration strengthened the process of identifying community needs and organising village-level development priorities, while natural resource management and natural farming interventions addressed the ecological foundations of rural livelihoods.

The combined approach recognises that resilient communities require both responsive local institutions and sustainable management of land, water and agricultural resources. By promoting community participation, farmer-led learning and locally appropriate solutions, KSRA seeks to strengthen communities' capacity to respond to environmental uncertainties, sustain agricultural livelihoods and pursue inclusive, long-term development.

The interventions also provide a foundation for future monitoring of outcomes, including changes in farming input costs, crop productivity, soil moisture, adoption of sustainable practices and community participation in local planning. Documenting these changes over time will help KSRA assess impact, strengthen program implementation and inform the wider adoption of effective, locally grounded approaches to rural development.

6. GROW+ Partnership with EdelGive Foundation

Organisational Strengthening and Climate Resilience

The GROW+ partnership aims to strengthen KSRA's organisational capacity and its ability to promote community-led climate resilience. It focuses on improving organisational systems, staff capacities, program planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), while connecting institutional development with grassroots realities and environmental sustainability.

The engagements reinforced the importance of integrating climate resilience across programs, strengthening organisational systems, documenting evidence, and incorporating indigenous knowledge and community institutions into locally appropriate climate action.

Outcomes and Way Forward

The partnership has provided opportunities for KSRA to reflect on organisational priorities, strengthen staff capacities and connect field-level experiences with wider learning on climate resilience. Going forward, KSRA will focus on mainstreaming climate considerations across programs, improving documentation and MEL, strengthening institutional systems, and promoting sustainable, community-led approaches to natural resource management and rural livelihoods.

The partnership reinforces KSRA's commitment to building resilient organisations and empowered communities capable of responding to changing social and environmental challenges.

The learning from GROW+ is relevant to KSRA's ongoing work in Jharkhand, particularly its efforts to strengthen Gram Sabhas, promote natural farming, conserve indigenous seeds, support nutrition gardens and improve soil and water management.

For example, natural farming and soil-water conservation initiatives can be strengthened by integrating local knowledge, documenting farmers' experiences and monitoring changes over time. Similarly, community institutions can help ensure that climate-related priorities are reflected in local development planning and that community perspectives inform engagement with government departments.

The partnership therefore offers an opportunity to connect organisational learning with practical field experience and use that learning to improve program design, implementation and accountability.

The documented engagements demonstrate progress in KSRA's participation in organisational development, climate learning, peer exchange and communication. They have helped identify areas for continued institutional strengthening, particularly in climate-responsive planning, documentation, monitoring and evaluation, financial management and cross-program learning.

The activities also created opportunities for KSRA to connect its local experience with wider discussions on resilient organisations and landscapes.

These are emerging organisational and learning outcomes. The longer-term effects on organisational performance, program quality and community resilience will require continued implementation and systematic monitoring.



6. Cross-cutting Approaches and Partnerships

Women's digital literacy

In partnership with EMP Bindi KSRA also identifies a women's digital literacy initiative in Lapung, intended to help women access online services, educational resources and livelihood opportunities. This complements KSRA's wider work on women's participation in local governance and access to public entitlements. The supplied material does not provide a verified participant total or outcome measure for this initiative.

Clean energy access for rural households

In collaboration with EMP Bindi International, KSRA promoted access to clean energy as part of its broader efforts to strengthen climate resilience and improve the quality of life of rural and tribal communities. Through this initiative, solar lights reached 200 families in Simdega. Access to solar lighting helped address everyday energy needs, particularly in households with limited lighting options after dark.

The intervention's benefits extended beyond energy access. As shared by one beneficiary family in Simdega, solar lighting enabled children to study after dark, made household activities easier in the evening and contributed to a greater sense of safety. Such experiences illustrate how decentralised clean energy solutions can support children's learning, household wellbeing and more inclusive rural development.

By integrating clean energy access with its wider work on climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods and community development, KSRA seeks to promote practical solutions that respond to local needs while supporting a transition towards more sustainable and resilient communities.

Community leadership and women's participation

Across programs, KSRA's approach relies on community participation and local leadership. Mahila Sabhas, women's involvement in Gram Sabha processes, community caregivers, Pashu Sathis and village-level child protection committees are important mechanisms through which people participate in decisions and help sustain program activities.

Government convergence

Good Coordination with PRI representatives, Block Administration, MGNREGA functionaries, Anganwadi Workers, Sahiyas and other frontline workers. This coordination supports referrals, welfare access, routine service delivery and the resolution of community concerns.

Indigenous knowledge and cultural continuity

Traditional foods, seed varieties, local farming practices, cultural gatherings and intergenerational knowledge-sharing are integral to KSRA's work. These practices are treated not only as cultural assets but also as resources for nutrition security, ecological stewardship and community identity.

Organizational learning

Five-day residential learning program, "Swaparichay – Seeing the Self," attended by the Program Coordinator in February 2026. The program supported reflection on self-awareness, relationships, leadership and professional practice. Staff training and exposure visits across programs further supported learning and field implementation.

Community campaigns and complementary initiatives

During 2025–26, KSRA organised focused campaigns and community mobilisation activities to strengthen awareness and collective action on child protection. Under the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign, awareness programmes, pledge drives and a padyatra in West Singhbhum encouraged community members to take a stand against child marriage. Field-level information was also shared to contribute to district records and the official campaign portal, strengthening the link between community action and institutional monitoring.

On the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, KSRA conducted awareness activities to highlight the risks of child trafficking and promote community vigilance. The campaign report records the apprehension of two alleged traffickers and the rescue of five children during the campaign. These initiatives reinforced the importance of timely identification, community participation and coordination with relevant authorities in preventing trafficking and protecting vulnerable children.

Together, these campaigns complemented KSRA's broader child protection efforts by encouraging communities to challenge harmful practices, report concerns and share responsibility for children's safety and rights. Campaign-specific figures are presented separately from the programme's overall achievements to avoid double-counting.

7. Challenges, Learning and Priorities for 2026–27

- Creche operations were affected by inconsistent LPG supply, rising input costs, seasonal migration and occasional attendance or anthropometric data gaps.
- Nutrition gardens required low-cost protection from free-grazing animals; household survey schedules needed to adapt to agricultural work and migration.
- Local governance work continues to face procedural complexity in forest rights claims and the need to strengthen standing committees and GPDP processes.
- Natural resource and natural farming interventions require more systematic tracking of practice adoption, costs, soil and water conditions, and seasonal outcomes.
- Rapid program expansion increases the need for adequate field supervision, caregiver mentoring, MIS quality and organizational systems.

Priorities for the coming year

- Consolidate service quality and monitoring across all creches, with particular attention to growth measurement, referral follow-up and caregiver development.
- Strengthen community ownership of Gram Sabha processes, standing committees, women's participation and welfare grievance resolution.

- Support the continuity of nutrition gardens, traditional seed banks and backyard poultry, while documenting household-level changes in food diversity and livelihood practices.
- Continue strengthening child protection committees and collaboration with local institutions, service providers and justice actors.
- Establish practical monitoring for NRM based structures and natural farming, including seasonal field observations and farmer feedback on costs, crop performance and soil moisture.

8. Organizational Information and Acknowledgements

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